



**Bertram Bridge**

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Registration Form**

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

**1. Name of Property**

historic name Bertram Bridge

other names/site number \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Location**

street & number Ely Street over Big Creek  not for publication

city or town Bertram  vicinity

state Iowa code IA county Linn code 113 zip code 45302

**3. State/Federal Agency Certification**

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this \_\_\_ nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant \_\_\_ nationally \_\_\_ statewide \_\_\_ locally. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

In my opinion, the property \_\_\_ meets \_\_\_ does not meet the National Register criteria. ( \_\_\_ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

State or Federal agency and bureau \_\_\_\_\_

**4. National Park Service Certification**

I hereby certify that the property is:

- entered in the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
 See continuation sheet \_\_\_\_\_
- determined eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_  
 See continuation sheet \_\_\_\_\_
- determined not eligible for the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- removed from the National Register \_\_\_\_\_
- other, (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

5. Classification

Ownership of Property  
(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property  
(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property  
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
0	0	buildings
0	0	sites
1	0	structures
0	0	objects
1	0	Total

Name of related multiple property listing  
(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing)

Highway Bridges of Iowa

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

Current Functions  
(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION/road-related

7. Description

Architectural Classification  
(Enter categories from instructions)

other: pinned Pratt through truss

Materials  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation	N/A
walls	N/A
roof	N/A
other	N/A

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

Located in Bertram, the Bertram Bridge spans Big Creek in a small-town setting that has changed little since the structure's period of significance. A description of the structure follows:

span number: 2                      construction date: 1891  
span length: 90.0'                  construction cost: \$2927.00  
total length: 224.0'                current condition: good  
roadway wdt.: 15.4'                alterations: none

superstructure: steel or wrought iron, 5-panel, pin-connected, Pratt through truss, with timber stringer approach spans

substructure: main spans: concrete-filled iron cylinder piers; approach spans: wood pile piers and abutments with timber back- and wingwalls

floor/decking: asphalt-covered timber deck

other features: upper chord and inclined end post: 2 channels with cover and batten plates; lower chord: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; hip vertical: 2 looped square eyebars; vertical: 2 channels with lacing; diagonal: 2 looped rectangular eyebars; counter: 1 looped square eyebar with turnbuckle; Armco railings; floor beam: tapered "fishtail" plate girder, U-bolted to superstructure; top and bottom lateral: round rod; portal bracing: 2 angles with flat bar lattice; sway bracing: 2 angles; builder's plate: J.E. Jayne & Son Bridge Builders / Iowa City, Iowa / 1891

Other than maintenance-related repairs, the bridge remains essentially unaltered as it continues to carry vehicular traffic. The Bertram Bridge today retains a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association.

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark 'x' in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

TRANSPORTATION

Period of Significance

1891

(The period of significance is derived from the original construction date.)

Significant Dates

1891 (construction date)

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

designer: unknown

fabricator: unknown

builder: J.E. Jayne & Son, Iowa City IA

Criteria Considerations

(Mark 'x' in all the boxes that apply)

Property is:

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
previously listed in the National Register
previously determined eligible by the National Register
designated a National Historic Landmark
recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey
recorded by Historic American Engineering Record

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
other State agency
Federal agency
Local government
University
other
name of repository:

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property less than one acre**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1 15 622100 4645760  
zone easting northing2 \_\_\_\_\_  
zone easting northing**Verbal Boundary Description**

(Describe the boundaries of the property)

The nominated property is a rectangular-shaped parcel measuring 17 feet by 224 feet, which is centered on the UTM point(s) listed above. Included within this rectangular parcel are the bridge's superstructure, substructure, approach spans and floor system.

**Boundary Justification**

(Explain why the boundaries were selected)

The nominated structure includes the bridge's superstructure, substructure, floor system, any approach spans and the property on which they rest. These boundaries encompass, but do not exceed, all of the property that has been historically associated with the bridge.

**11. Form Prepared By**name/title Robert Hybben, Charlene Roise and Michelle Crow-Dolbyorganization Fraserdesign date 31 August 1994street & number 1269 Cleveland Avenue telephone 303-669-7969city or town Loveland state Colorado zip code 80537**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets****Maps**A **USGS map** (7½ or 15 minute series) indicating the property's locationA **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources**Photographs**Representative **black and white photographs** of the property**Additional items**

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO)

name/title Town of Bertram

street &amp; number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

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Comprised of two identical Pratt through trusses, the Bertram Bridge extends across Big Creek in the village of Bertram in southern Linn County. A bridge plate indicates that it was built by J.E. Jayne & Son of Iowa City, Iowa, in 1891. Minutes of a meeting of the Linn County Board of Supervisors in January 1892 reported that the 224-foot Bertram Bridge, with iron tubular piers and two 20-foot approaches, had cost \$2,927.00. The Pratt through truss configuration was employed on many bridges in Linn County in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Since its construction, the Bertram Bridge has carried relatively light traffic and currently maintains a high degree of both structural and historical integrity.

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Continuation Sheet**

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Iowa Department of Transportation, Structure Inventory and Appraisal: Structure No. 000640.

Linn County Bridges, Supervisors' Proceedings, 1843-1900: page 197 (January 1892), located at the Linn County Engineer's Office, Cedar Rapids IA.

Field inspection by Charlene K. Roise, 28 September 1991.